REMARKS

Claims 48-100 and 102-182 were previously pending in this application following Applicants' July 21, 1998 Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.115. Claims 48, 77, 100 and 102 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled by this Supplemental Amendment. Accordingly, claims 48-100 and 102-182 as amended herein are presented for further examination on the merits.

Mindful that this application bears a priority filing dating back to January 21, 1983, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 48, 77, 100 and 102 in a sincere effort to define their invention more clearly and expedite the prosecution of this application thereby. In the claims amended hereinabove, the soluble signal has been defined as "quantifiable." This amendment and restriction of the claims to a quantifiable soluble signal generated or generatable from a chemical label or labels comprising a signaling moiety or moieties is significant because it patentably distinguishes the present invention from the *in situ* prior art documents already of record and cited previously by the Examiner including the January 21, 1998 Office Action. See the second, third and fourth anticipation rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), citing Stuart et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,732,847, Langer-Safer et al. [PNAS 79:4381-4385 (1982)] or Manuelidis et al. [Journal of Cell Biology 95:619-625 (1982)], and Ward, U.S. Patent No. 4,711,955, respectively.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the foregoing documents discloses or suggests that a soluble signal can or could or even should be quantified, in accordance with the newly claimed invention at hand. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that unlike their present invention, a quantifiable soluble signal cannot be obtained *in any case* using the *in situ* format of the cited prior art documents. Evidence to support this contention is expected to be submitted shortly.

In the meantime, entry of the foregoing amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

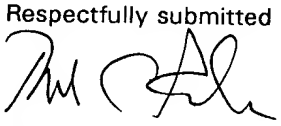
No claims have been added or canceled by this Supplemental Amendment, although four claims (48, 77, 100 and 102) have been amended. Thus, claims 48-100 and 102-182 are presented again for substantive examination.

No fee is believed due in connection with this Supplemental Response, a three month extension fee having been previously authorized in connection with Applicants' July 21, 1998 Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.115. In the event, however, that any other fee or fees are due in connection with this Supplemental Amendment or with Applicants' previous July 21, 1998 Amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge the amount of any such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 05-1135, or to credit any overpayment thereto.

If it would be helpful to expediting the prosecution of this application, the undersigned may be contacted by telephone at 212-583-0100 during the daytime business hours.

Early and favorable action on this application is respectfully sought.

Respectfully submitted



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